CNN SNC

- Turner confirms SNC talks, but no deal
- House readies version of cable deregulation bill
- AFL-CIO organizes CableLINE network
- West Coast feed coming at The Movie Channel

CableVision

The news and features weekly of the cable television industry October 10, 1983 $3.00

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CableVision October 10, 1983. Volume 9, Number 6

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Turner to forecast weather

Ted Turner charts plans to enter the local weather business—and potentially compete with The Weather Channel—via CNN Headline News. No timetable has been announced. **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

West Coast feed for TMC

The Movie Channel will offer West Coast affiliates a separate feed "before the end of the year," says Terrence Elkes, recently promoted to chief executive officer of Viacom International. **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

Companion bill makes rounds

A House version of the companion bill to S. 66, the cable deregulation measure passed earlier by the Senate, circulates in Washington. The bill is expected to be introduced shortly. **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

Pacific interconnect

The nation's newest cable advertising interconnect has begun in the Pacific Northwest. A partnership between Group W and Viacom, the new venture will deliver 245,000 subscribers to advertisers. **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

USCI announces DBS plans

United Satellite Communications sets a date and region for premiering its medium-power DBS venture. Five channels priced under $40 a month will be offered to customers; few specifics beyond that. **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

TV planning council unveiled

In what struck many as a consortium of strange bedfellows, American Telegraph & Telephone, American Broadcasting Cos., Turner Broadcasting System and Time Inc.'s Home Box Office are getting together to form a "Joint Television Planning Council." **Leading the week, pages 16-20.**

Labor launching network

Equipped with a $1 million budget, the nation's largest labor organization, the AFL-CIO, charges into the cable arena with a three-city cable network, dubbed CableLINE—TV for America's Workers, set to launch Oct. 9. **Page 21.**

Travanti shines on Showtime

An outstanding performance by Daniel Travanti in Showtime's *A Case of Libel* adds a special touch to courtroom melodrama. **Page 21.**

Briefcase video

A compact video system introduced by JVC allows cable salesmen to bring their wares to sales calls with prospective advertisers. **Page 22.**

Introducing the cable store

Cablevision Systems Development of Huntington, N.Y., has taken a new approach to cable marketing in its area with the Sept. 10 opening of a cable store. **Page 22.**

Bright future predicted

Standard & Poor's sees relief ahead for the cable industry, with record profits predicted for cable this year and profitable years thereafter. **Page 47.**

Franchising process attacked

California cable companies denied pole attachment rights sue cities, claiming violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. **Page 49.**

Kathryn Creech

This week in PLUS

As the Council for Cable Information prepares to launch its industrywide image campaign, we spoke with the council's president, Kathryn Creech, about her plans. Defogging cable's image is no small task. Creech discusses the possibilities and the probabilities of the tack her organization will take. . . Next, *Plus* spoke with industry figures and watchers to get their views on the council's plans—and on what perhaps those plans should and should not be. Most approved resoundingly of the idea, then qualified their support with cautions. Some of the warnings and suggestions: Don't say we're not TV—we are TV, just better TV. Avoid jingles at the expense of information. Concentrate on what makes cable different, not on what makes it the same. Clean up cable's image as a distributor of dirty movies. And, finally, some suggested that the CCI's time might be better spent improving operators' dealings with the public. **Pages 23-46.**

Film product comparison—October

Film	Pay Networks					Distributor
ABBA: The Movie				HTN		MGM/UA
A Cry for Love		HBO				Viacom
A Little Sex			TMC			Universal
Amityville II: The Possession	HBO*					Orion
An American Werewolf in London					C*	PolyGram
Andy Hardy Comes Home		ST				MGM/UA
An Enemy of the People				HTN		Warner Bros.
An Eye for an Eye		(ST)	TMC			Viacom
Animalympics		ST				Film Gallery
Anna to the infinite Power			ST	TMC		Film Gallery
A Stranger is Watching	HBO	ST				MGM/UA
Auntie Mame			TMC*			Warner Bros.
Au Pair Girls		ST				AIP Video
Ball of Fire		ST			(C)	Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Battleground		ST*				MGM/UA
Becket					C	F&M Enterprises
The Bell Jar	HBO					Embassy
Big Bad Mama					C*	New World
Big Mo				HTN	C	Viacom
Blade Runner	HBO*	ST*	(TMC)			Embassy
Blind Rage	HBO					Cannon
Blood Relatives	HBO*					Castle Hill
Blue Collar					C	Universal
The Browning Version					C	Janus
Cannery Row		(ST)		(HTN)	C*	MGM/UA
Captain America				HTN		Universal
Captain America II: Death Too Soon				HTN		Universal
Chandler		ST			(C)	MGM/UA
Chariots of Fire		ST	TMC	(HTN)		Warner Bros.
Cheech and Chong's Nice Dreams		ST			(C)	Columbia
China 9, Liberty 37					C*	Lorimar
Choice of Arms			TMC*			Wrightwood
Cobweb		ST				MGM/UA
Conan the Barbarian		ST	TMC			Universal
Coney Island				HTN		20th Century-Fox
Cross		ST				MGM/UA
Cry Terror		ST				MGM/UA
Dance of the Dwarfs	HBO					Peter Strauss
Dark Eyes		ST				K-Pay
Das Boot/The Boat		ST*			(C)	Columbia
Day of the Triffids			TMC			A. Greenfield
Dead Men Don't Wear Plaid	(HBO)'	(ST)	TMC*			Universal
The Dogs of War					C	MGM/UA
Don't Cry, It's Only Thunder				(HTN)	C	Saavia
Dreamboat					C*	20th Century-Fox
Dreamwife		ST				MGM/UA
Eating Raoul			TMC		C	20th Century-Fox
Enter the Ninja			TMC		(C)	Viacom
The Exorcist	HBO	ST	TMC			Warner Bros.
Exorcist II: The Heretic		ST	TMC			Warner Bros.
The Eyes of the Amaryllis			TMC			Amaryllis Prod.
Fast Times at Ridgemont High	(HBO)	(ST)	TMC			Universal
Fat Chance			(TMC)		C	Wrightwood
The Fighting Sullivans					C*	Crystal
First Blood	HBO					Orion
The First Time	HBO					Film Gallery
Firefox	(HBO)	(ST)	TMC*	(HTN)		Warner Bros.
Five Days One Summer	HBO	ST	TMC	HTN		Warner Bros.
The French Lieutenant's Woman		ST	(TNC)		C	MGM/UA
The Front					C	Columbia
Galaxy Express					C*	New World
Galaxy of Terror		ST	(TMC)			New World
The Gang's All Here				HTN		20th Century-Fox
Ghost Story	HBO	(ST)	(TMC)			Universal
Glacier Fox	HBO					Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Gloria					C	Columbia
The Godfather			TMC		C	Paramount

Film	Pay Networks					Distributor
The Godfather II			TMC			Paramount
Goin' South	HBO	(ST)	(TMC)			Paramount
Golden Rendevous					C*	Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Goodbye Porkpie			TMC			Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Green Ice	HBO*		(TMC)	(HTN)*	(C)	ITC
Gray Lady Down		ST				Universal
Halloween III: Season of the Witch	HBO	ST	TMC			Universal
Harry's War	HBO		(TMC)			Sunn Classic
Hell Night		ST	(TMC)			Compass
Home From the Hill		ST				MGM/UA
H.O.T.S.		ST				Blum
How To Beat the High Cost of Living			TMC			Orion
Hugo and Josephine	HBO					Warner Bros.
If Things Were Different					C*	Embassy
I Go Pogo			TMC			Stowmar Ent.
I Love You		ST*				Atlantic Releasing
I'm Dancing as Fast as I can			TMC*			Paramount
I Never Promised You a Rose Garden			TMC			Viacom
Irish Eyes are Smiling				HTN		20th Century-Fox
The Irishman		ST*				Atlantic Releasing
It Came From Hollywood	HBO	ST	TMC			Paramount
I, The Jury	HBO*		TMC			20th Century-Fox
I Wake Up Screaming				(HTN)	C	20th Century-Fox
The Jackpot				(HTN)	C*	20th Century-Fox
Jinxed	HBO	ST	TMC			MGM/UA
The Jungle Book			(TMC)	HTN		Corinth
Just Before Dawn			TMC			Picturemedia
Kentucky Fried Movie		ST	TMC		C	United Film
La Ronda					C	Janus
La Vie Continue					C*	Columbia
Legend of the Wild	HBO	(ST)				Sunn Classic
The Loneliness of The Long Distance Runner				HTN		Warner Bros.
Lost Horizon					C	Columbia
Love and Money	HBO		TMC			Lorimar
Love Child	HBO		TMC			Warner Bros.
Lucky Lady			TMC		C	20th Century-Fox
MacArthur		ST*	(TMC)			Universal
Mad Max	HBO*					Orion
Make Me an Offer					C	ABC
Man on a Tightrope					C	20th Century-Fox
Manny's Orphans				HTN*		Coe
Marco Polo Jr.		ST		(HTN)		SMA Entertainment
Missing	(HBO)	(ST)	(TMC)	HTN*		Universal
My Favorite Year	HBO	ST	TMC		C	MGM/UA
Mystery at Castle House		ST				Satori
Paternity	HBO	(ST)	TMC	(HTN)		Paramount
Payday					C*	Saul Zaentz
People Will Talk			TMC*	(HTN)		20th Century-Fox
Pial					C	20th Century-Fox
The Pride of the Yankees		ST			(C)	Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Prince of the City	HBO	ST*	(TMC)			Warner Bros.
The Prize Fighter	HBO*					HBO
Rabid		ST				Viacom
Rainbow			TMC*			Viacom
Ransom		ST			(C)	MGM/UA
Resurrection					C*	Universal
Rich and Famous		ST			C*	MGM/UA
Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip	(HBO)				C	Columbia
The Road Warrior	HBO*	(ST)	TMC*			Warner Bros.
Rose of Washington Square				HTN		20th Century-Fox
Run, Rebecca, Run		ST				Satori
The Sender	HBO	ST	TMC			Paramount
Sex Machine		ST				Seymour Borde
Sex Ray		ST				Miramax
Sex With the Stars					C	Film Gallery

Cable stats

Film	Pay Networks					Distributor
Shipwreck				HTN		Warner Bros.
The Sin		ST*				Viacom
Sitting Ducks		ST*	(TMC)			United Film
Smithereens			TMC			Film Gallery
So Fine	HBO	(ST)	TMC			Warner Bros.
Some Kind of Hero	(HBO)	ST*	(TMC)			Paramount
Son of Monte Cristo			TMC			Film Gallery
Sooner or Later			TMC		C*	Viacom
S.O.S. Titanic	HBO					Viacom
Southern Comfort		ST*	TMC			20th Century-Fox
Spetters		ST				Samuel Goldwyn Co.
Spirit of St. Louis				HTN	C*	Warner Bros.
Starstruck			TMC*			SMA Entertainment
Star Wars	(HBO)	ST*	(TMC)	(HTN)		20th Century-Fox
The Stunt Man			TMC		C	Viacom
Sun Valley Serenade				HTN		20th Century-Fox
Superchick		ST				Crown
The Swinging Cheerleaders					C	Delta Video
Take Her, She's Mine				(HTN)	C	20th Century-Fox
Taps	HBO	ST				20th Century-Fox
Telefon			TMC		C	MGM/UA
Tell Me a Riddle	HBO					Film Gallery
This Time Forever				HTN*		Thorn EMI
The Three Musketeers			TMC			PIK
Thunderbirds of China		(ST)		HTN		Coe
Thunderbirds 2086: Fear Factor		ST				ITC
Thunderbirds 2086: Firefall		ST*				ITC
Thomasine and Bushrod					C	Columbia
Ticket to Heaven	HBO*					MGM/UA
Tim			(TMC)		C*	Satori
Time After Time	(HBO)		(TMC)	HTN		Warner Bros.
Time Bandits	(HBO)*		TMC			Embassy
Timerider	(HBO)		TMC*			Simcom
Timewalker			TMC			Wescom
Toby & the Koala Bear					C	Satori
Topper Returns			TMC			Film Gallery
To Race the Wind			TMC		C	Viacom
The Toy	HBO	ST	TMC	HTN	C	Columbia
Trail of the Pink Panther	HBO	ST	TMC	HTN		MGM/UA
Treasure of the Four Crowns	HBO*					Cannon
True Confessions		ST*	(TMC)		(C)	MGM/UA
The Ultimate Imposter				HTN		Universal
Used Cars					C*	Columbia
Venom	HBO*	(ST)	(TMC)		(C)	Film Gallery
Virus			TMC			Broadwood Prod.
Wabash Avenue				HTN		20th Century-Fox
Waltz Across Texas	HBO*	ST	TMC*			Atlantic
The World According to Garp	HBO	ST	TMC			Warner Bros.
Yanks			TMC		C	Universal

Scott Schwartz and Richard Pryor in 'The Toy.'

Cable Network Legend
HBO—Home Box Office
ST—Showtime
TMC—The Movie Channel
HTN—Home Theater Network
C—Cinemax

- Networks in parentheses indicate carriage in May, June July, August, September and/or October.
- An asterisk following a network indicates the film is a carry-over from May, June July, August September and/or October.
- In total, 181 titles appear on the September schedules of HBO, Showtime, The Movie Channel, HTN and Cinemax. Of those films during the last six months (May-October 1983), one film "The Toy"—appeared on all five services. Ten films appear on four of the five services, 22 on three and 45 on two networks. One-hundred and three films are unduplicated.
- The motion picture distributor to pay cable with the most titles featured this month is MGM/UA with 21, followed by 20th Century-Fox with 19 and Warner Bros. with 17.
- "First Blood" starring Sylvester Stallone appears on the HBO cover. Both the HBO/Cinemax and The Movie Channel covers feature the Peter O'Toole Film Festival and Richard Pryor in "The Toy." Eddie Murphy also makes an appearance on the HBO/Cinemax cover in the comedy show "Delirious." The Movie Channel additionally features Robin Williams in "The World According to Garp," Bette Midler's "Jinxed" and Liza Minelli as "Lucky Lady." HTN highlights Sean Connery in the romantic film "Five Days One Summer." Showtime presents Edward Asner and Emmy nominee Daniel Travanti of "Hill Street Blues" in "A Case of Libel." Also on the Showtime cover are comedienes Gallagher and John Byner in "Gallagher the Maddest" and "Bizarre," respectively.

Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.

Top 20 MSOs

Rank	Multiple system operator	Basic subs
1.	Tele-Communications Inc.[1]	2,500,000 (9/83)
2.	American Television and Communications Corp.	2,248,525
3.	Group W Cable	1,812,000 (7/83)
4.	Cox Cable Communications Inc.	1,400,000 (9/83)
5.	Warner Amex Cable Communications Inc.	1,340,294 (7/83)
6.	Storer Cable Communications	1,288,873 (7/83)
7.	Times Mirror Cable Television Inc.	844,600
8.	Newhouse Broadcasting[2]	751,625
9.	Continental Cablevision	696,000 (8/83)
10.	Viacom Cablevision	692,981 (9/83)
11.	United Cable Television Corp.	579,000
12.	Sammons Communications Inc.	554,488 (7/83)
13.	Rogers Cablesystems	461,899 (8/83)
14.	TeleCable Corp.	360,091
15.	Heritage Communications	342,377
16.	UA Cablesystems	327,000 (9/83)
17.	Cablevision Systems Development	350,000 (8/83)
18.	Capital Cities Cable Inc.	314,283 (11/82)
19.	General Electric Cablevision	314,000 (9/83)
20.	Comcast Cable Communications	304,000

Subscriber counts are as of 6/83 unless noted otherwise.
[1]Number is an estimate.
[2]Includes MetroVision, NewChannels, Vision Cable.
Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.

Top 20 systems

Rank	Location	Operator	Basic subs	
1.	San Diego, Calif.	Cox Cable	225,000	
2.	Woodbury (Long Island), N.Y.	Cablevision Systems	203,000	(8/83)
3.	Houston, Texas	Warner Amex	184,900	
4.	Manhattan, N.Y.	ATC	176,700	(6/83)
5.	San Antonio, Texas	Rogers Cablesystems	164,531	(8/83)
6.	West Orange, N.J.	Maclean Hunter	152,148	
7.	Wayne, N.J.	UA Cablesystems	124,000	(8/83)
8.	Tulsa, Okla.	United Cable	108,673	(8/83)
9.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Warner Amex	110,500	
10.	Audubon, N.J.	NYT Cable	105,690	
11.	Rochester, N.Y.	ATC	101,775	(6/83)
12.	Erie County, N.Y.	Prime Cable	100,405	
13.	San Jose, Calif.	Gill Industries	98,500	(8/83)
14.	Baltimore County, Md.	Cattec Cablevision	92,377	
15.	Austin, Texas	ATC	92,250	(6/83)
16.	Tidewater, Va.	Cox Cable	91,393	(12/82)
17.	Honolulu, Hawaii	ATC	88,325	(6/83)
18.	Central Islip (L.I.), N.Y.	Viacom Cablevision	87,817	(9/83)
19.	Seattle, Wash.	Group W Cable	87,618	(6/83)
20.	Orlando, Fla.[1]	ATC	87,000	(6/83)

Subscriber counts are as of 7/83 unless noted otherwise.
[1] Number is an estimate.
Source: ICR, Cable Information Service—a Titsch Communications division.